

PE 1313
.R8



PE 1313

.R8

Copy 1

HISTORICAL

DEVELOPMENT OF THE GERUND
IN
THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

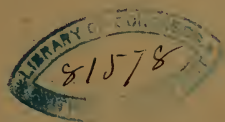
INAUGURAL-DISSERTATION
ZUR ERLANGUNG
DER PHILOSOPHISCHEN DOCTORWÜRDE

AN DER

UNIVERSITÄT ZU LEIPZIG

VON

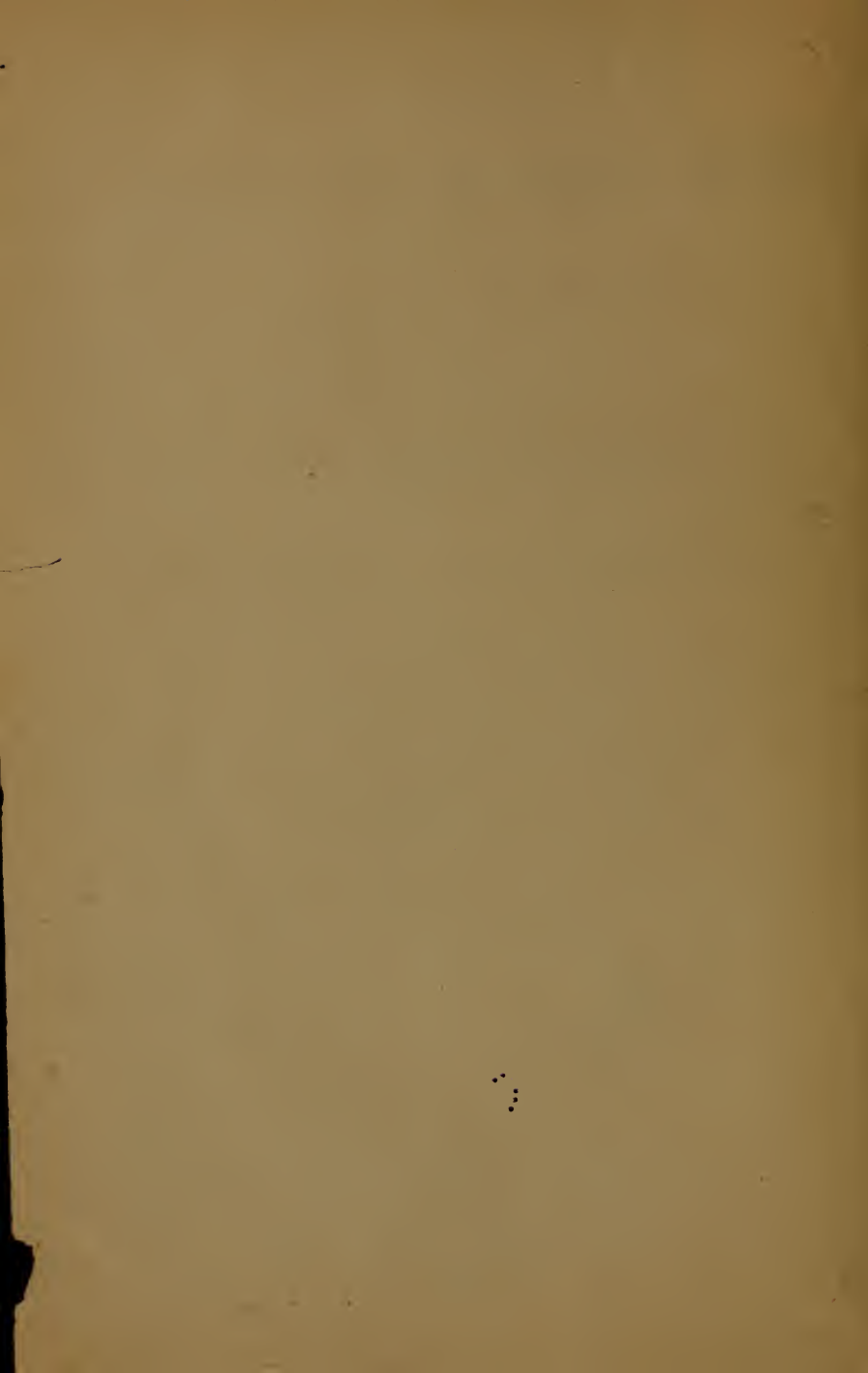
F. G. A. RUSTEBERG.



GÖTTINGEN 1874.

DRUCK DER DIETERICHSCHE UNIV.-BUCHDRUCKEREI.

W. FR. KAESTNER



Historical Development of the Gerund in the English language.

The English language of to-day has in the so-called Gerund a form by the help of which the Englishman is able to express his thoughts with much brevity and precision, giving his speech a great deal of vivacity and energy. One page's reading of Macaulay or Irving will show, how much the best writers are aware of the Gerund's expressiveness. This convenient form is indeed an advantage of the English over the German language which, if the infinitive is not found fit to replace the form in „ing“, is often obliged to translate such a short phrase by a long secondary sentence. The French language possesses also a Gerund, but its range of use is more confined than that of the English. Although the French language has more freedom in applying the infinitive than the German, an English Gerund is very often to be translated by a French secondary sentence. It is not without good reason, that the French Gerund is mentioned here, this form having probably exerted much influence on the modern use of the Gerund in the English language.

To judge the extension the Gerund has got by degrees, it is but natural to find out the realm of the like called form in the original stage of the English language, viz., in Anglo-Saxon. In comparing the Anglo-Saxon Gerund with the English, nothing is more evident than the fact, that both forms have no connection whatever with each other. The Anglo-Saxon Gerund is really an inflected Infinitive, preceded in the dative case by the preposition „to“. As the genitive is wanting, and nominative and accusative are alike, the Anglo-Saxon Infinitive is declined as follows:

Nom. writan.

Gen. —

Dat. to writanne.

Acc. writan.

Only this Dative is usually called Gerund, and the form of

the two other cases retains the nomination of Infinitive.

To exhibit the difference between the Anglo-Saxon and the English Gerund we give some quotations, found in perusing *Beóvulf*. (*Beóv.*, ed. by M. Heyne).

1. raed eahtedon
hvät svið-ferhðum sêlest vaere
við faer-gryrum *tô gefremmanne*.

Beóv., v. 172—174.

(They deliberated what would be the best for the brave-hearted *to do* against the terror of surprise).

2. Sorh is me *tô secganne*.

Beóv. v. 473.

(It gives me pain *to say*.)

3. Nô þät yðe byð
tô befleónne.

Ibid. v. 1004.

(That is not easy *to avoid*.)

4. Vundor is *tô secganne*,
hû mihtig god manna cynne. . . .

Ibid. v. 1725.

(Wonder is *to be said*, how powerful God to mankind)

5. seleð him on eðle eorðan vynne
tô healdanne hleó-burh vera.

Ibid. 1731 and 1732.

(God gives him noble earthly property, *to maintain* the royal castle of the warriors)

6. näs him feor þanon
tô gesêcenne sinces bryttan.

Ibid. 1922 and 23.

(It was for him not far *to come* from there to the giver of treasures.)

7. Ne bið svyle cvênlic þeáv idese *tô efnanne*.

Ibid. 1941. and 42.

(This is not a ladylike custom for this lady *to follow* it.)

8. näs þät yðe ceáp,
tô gegangenne gumena aenigum.

Ibid. 2416 and 17.

(That was not an easy affair *to be brought* to an end by some of the men.)

9. Svâ bið geômorlic gomelum ceorle *tô gebîðanne*.

Ibid. 2445 and 46.

(This is painful for the old man *to enliven*.)

10. oðres ne gymeð

tô gebîðanne burgum on innan

yrfe-veardes, —

Ibid. 2452—54.

(He does not take trouble about seeing (*to see*) another heir within his castle.)

Most quotations show the inclination of the Gerund to follow the verb „to be“, either really expressed, or understood. In the tenth example the Gerund is preceded by the present tense of the intransitive verb „gýman“ = to take care. None of these ten Anglo-Saxon Gerunds would allow to be translated by the Dative of the modern Gerund, proof enough of the diverging meaning and character of both forms. Notwithstanding this obvious heterogeneousness it is tried, especially by English grammarians, to prove the modern Gerund to be a derivative from the ancient Gerund, that is to say, not from the Dative, but from the Accusative and Nominative of the ancient Gerund. In proving this they proceed as follows: When the Anglo-Saxon was changed into Semi-Saxon and Old-English, the infinitive became „writen“ instead of „writan“, writen was changed into „writin“, and finally into „writing“, this last change doubtless facilitated by the existence of a class of abstract nouns in „ung“ and „ing“.

But this etymology will hardly stand the test. Before the change from the termination „an“ into „en“ took place, the modern Gerund was already cognoscible in the Anglo-Saxon verbal substantive in „ung“. It would, moreover, be difficult to prove the existence of infinitives, ending in „in“, to such an extension, as to exert an influence over the formation of a new form. It is from this etymology, that English grammarians have so vague an idea about what a Gerund is. Firstly, they call a Gerund what we understand by it, and think it to be a derivative from the Nom. and Acc. of the Anglo-Saxon Infinitive. Secondly, they call a

Gerund an Infinitive after intransitive and passive verbs, being according to their opinion the derivative from the Anglo-Saxon inflected Dative.

For instance :

1. And fools who came *to scoff* remained
to pray. (Goldsmith.)
2. No children run *to lisp* their sire's return,
Or climb his knees the envied kiss *to share*. (Gray.)
3. A kingdom for a stage, princes *to act*,
And monarchs *to behold* the swelling scene. (Shakesp.)
4. I come *to bury* Caesar, not *to praise* him. (Shakesp.) —

Much more likely is the derivation of the preposition of the infinitive „to“ from the dative of the Anglo-Saxon Gerund. The Anglo-Saxon Infinitive was used without „to“, only the dative case was preceded by it, and besides this inflected by the termination „ne“. When in later times the inflectional endings were lost, Nom., Dat., and Accus. of the Infinitive had the same termination, and this similarity in form caused the preposition „to“ to be applied to all cases of the Infinitive. Thus the English Infinitive improperly received the preposition „to“.

Not being satisfied by the above mentioned way of etymologizing, we trace back to former centuries the use of the Gerund. Compared with the frequent use of to-day, its use in the days of the middle ages was much less common, and tracing farther back, we find that the Gerund was not used with the same variety of meanings. In the early period of Old-English, that is to say in the 13th century, it is neither connected with an object nor with an adverb. At last we find it employed in the sense of the Anglo-Saxon verbal noun, ending in „ung“. From this consideration we infer that the English Gerund is derived from the Anglo-Saxon verbal noun.

The Gerund has sometimes been regarded as a derivative from the present participle. It may be given here simply as a notice, what is to be proved afterwards: The origin of the Gerund has nothing to do with the latter form, although the modern language offers cases, where the discrimination between Gerund and present Participle is hard enough. We mean the Gerund after verbs of ending and of beginning.

1. He again seated himself and began weaving them into one of those garlands. (Bulw. Rienzi I, 1.)
2. The old hag kept murmuring to herself a Saxon rhyme. (Scott.)
3. The first English lottery began drawing on the 11th of January 1569; it continued incessantly drawing, day and night, till the sixth of May following.

The Anglo-Saxon form in „ung“ reminds us of the modern German like sounding substantive termination in „ung“, by which, as in Anglo-Saxon, substantives are formed from a verbal root, expressing the idea of their root-verb. Exactly the same does the Gerund of to-day. Both are substantivated verbs, in Anglo-Saxon more assuming the nature of a substantive, in modern English more retaining the verbal quality.

In early Anglo-Saxon the verbal substantives in „ung“ were not very frequent. In the song of *Béovulf*, for instance, an other word of this sort than „*veorðung*“ (from the verb *veorðian*), will scarcely be found.

1. *Hvilum hie gehêton ât hârg-trafum*

vîg-veorðunga vordum baedon.

Beóv. v. 175—176.

2. *Ful oft ic for lăssan leán teohhode*

hord-veorðunge hnaran rince.

Ib. 952—53.

But as it was easy and convenient from the character of this substantive to form new substantives, the later Anglo-Saxon writings abound in such substantives, treated as other substantives, with regard both to inflection and connection with prepositions.

In order to show the development of the Gerund, the best way, in our opinion, is to look out for examples in the oldest writers, and to follow the change of the language, respecting the mentioned form from their time to the present.

At first we give examples from the Anglo-Saxon translations of King Alfred.

- I. Substantives in „ung“ are used in the accusative case.

1. *To-eacan þaes landes sceávrunges (sceávrían¹).*

1) The word mentioned in brackets is the root-verb of the verbal substantive.

King Alfred's Anglo-Saxon version of Boëthius, ed. by J. S. Cardale.

2. Aelfred hateþ grêtung Vulfsgige (grêtan). Alfred's Pastorate.

3. . . . ic maeg forstanden þîne acsunge (acsian).

Alfred's Boëth., ed. by Cardale.

II. Substantives in „ung“ in connection with prepositions.

1. hû zeorne hî vaeron aegther ze ymbe lâra ze ymbe leornunza (leornian).

Alfr. Boëth.

2. . . . nu hit nauht elles nât bûtan zuornunza (zurnian).

Ibid.

3. bûtan godes geseahte and þafunze (þafian).

Ibid.

4. and hy þe villaþ on mornunza zebrinzan (murnan).

Ibid.

5. bûtan tô tâcnunze sorges (tâcian).

Ibid.

6. ze viþ heora þreáunza ze viþ olecunza (þreátian).

Ibid.

III. A substantive in „ung“ in the genitive case.

1. Hû mihtest þu beón on midre þirre hvearfunza. (hveorfan).

Examining writings of a later period, of the first half of the 13th century, the *Ancren Riwe*, ed. by Morton, the *Sermons*, ed. by Wright in the *Rel. Ant.*, the verbal substantive is found to be employed quite in the same way, and in most cases in the same form.

I. The verbal substantive in the nominative case.

1. . . . hu sunegunge bigon.

The *Ancr. R.*, p. 52.

2. „Gode“, cweð he, „beo boð auh hore wunnunge naued not zet.

Ibid. p. 74.

3. þe heorte wardeins beoð þe viþ wittes, sihðe and herunge, smecchunge and smellunge, and eueriches limes uelunge.

Ibid. 48.

To hear, to smell, to feel are verbs of the modern language, smecchunge reminds of the German verb „schmecken“. Translated into modern English, the phrase would contain the Gerunds: Seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling, a proof that this Gerund is a derivative from the verbal substantive in „ung“.

4. Attri speche is cresie and þwertouer leasunge, bac-bitunge and fikelunge.

Ibid. p. 82.

5. þat is hordom and midliggunge þe men drigen bitwenen hem.

Rel. Ant. ed. by Wright p. 131.

II. In the accusative case.

1. Vor heo hunted efter pris, and kecched lastunge.

Ancr. R. p. 66.

2. And habbed wlatung of þe mude.

Ib. p. 82.

III. In connection with prepositions.

1. . . . mid hore blodshedunge irudded and ireaded ase þe martirs weren.

Ibid. p. 50.

Bloodshedding is a verbal substantive, a little oldfashioned now, but sometimes still used.

3. . . . ne ne shullen habben, þurh þe grace of Gode, of todinde ancras, ne of tollinde lokunges.

Ibid. p. 50.

3. We speken of and ter after of herrunge.

Ibid. p. 64.

4. And heo opened hire muð mid much maðelunge.

Ibid. p. 80.

5. And onsweried mid lut wordes to his askunge.

Ibid. p. 70.

6. . . . þet in silence and in hope schal beon ure strence in Godes seruise azein þes deofles turnes and his fondunges.

Ibid. p. 78.

The termination in „ung“ begins to change. With the same writer, or with contemporary writers, we find „ung“ and „ing“, even the same word with „ung“ and „ing“.

1. Al Holi Writ is ful af warningge of eie.

Ancr. R. p. 62.

2. Hwat vuel beo icumen of totinge.

Ibid. p. 52.

3. Ved þine eien mid totunge.

Ibid. p. 100.

4. Vrom mulne and from cheping, from smide and from ancre huse me tidinge bringeð. (ceapian.)

Ibid. p. 88.

5. þenc ancre þene hwat tu þouhtes and souhtes þo þu uorsoke þene world i þine biclusinge (beclýsian).

6. Hie was fet of weste wunienge. (vunian).

Rel. Ant. p. 128.

The text of the Ancren Riwle gives wunnunge:

„ auh hore wunnunge naued not zet“.

p. 74.

7. þe men tilien in chirche ou salmes, and songes and on redinges.

Rel. Ant. p. 129.

8. And þat is after clepenge, and ascinge and uncunne warienge etc. — (varian).

Ibid. 131.

The Ancr. R. has askunge, as we have seen before.

9. ne mid cursinge.

Ibid. p. 131.

It is obvious, that about this time, in the beginning of the 13th century, a revolution took place in the language. The Anglo-Saxon tongue which had gradually undergone so great a change was now completely metamorphosed into another language, which had grown up from it like the flower from the seed. — The mute endings of the words are dropped or weakened still more, the grammatical gender in which a terrible confusion had ruled since the Norman invasion, was now, as a rule, determined by sex alone, confining the neuter to objects without sex. The various inflection was simplified, the arrangement of the parts of speech in the phrases became more conform to the meaning which was to be expressed, an improvement caused in a great measure by the French language whose syntax and vocabulary

exerted a certain influence over the subdued peoples tongue since the invasion, but whose character and genius is especially cognoscible in the English language since the beginning of the 13th century, when both languages began to amalgamize. It is that state of the English language which we are accustomed to call the origin of Old-English.

It is during this revolution that the verbal substantive changed its termination from „ung“ into „ing“. What has been the cause for accepting this latter ending? The termination „ing“ was not at all a new one. We meet with substantives ending in „ing“ in the earliest periods of Anglo-Saxon. The Anglo-Saxon suffix „ing“, having firstly the meaning of „the son of“ is used to form Patronymics. From the idea of infant this suffix has accepted the meaning of „little“, employed now to form diminutives. Such Patronymics are found in the song of Bëovulf: Sverting, Scylding, Scyfling etc. Moreover „ing“ denotes, a state of being. Cf. Beovulf vers 2002: Gemeeting. vers 2618: gädeling, vers 2343: äðeling. The remark, if perhaps the Anglo-Saxon pronunciation of the ending „ung“, or the influence of the French pronunciation of this syllable have led to the orthography „ing“, may be worth mentioning.

In perusing the Ormulum, the Lazamon, the Owl and the Nightingale, the Credo in Deum, poems of the 13th century, the verbal substantive is always found ending in „ing“. The verbal substantive used

I. As subject:

1. þin egging iss off flaeshess lusst
Annd nohht off sawles fode.

Orm. 11675 and 76.

2. Nu thu mizt, hule, sitte and clinge;
Her among is no chateringe.

The Owl and the N. 743 and 44.

3. Wone thi lesing both unwroze (Lesing = Angl.-Sox. leásung). Ibid. 846.

II. As a predicate.

1. Thu zolst and wones, and ich singe,
Thi stevene is wop, and min skentinge.

Owl and Night. 983 and 84.

III. As object.

1. Forr uss birrþ sone þannukenn himm,
Hiss wissing annd hiss lare.

Orm. 11829 and 30.

Wissing = Angl.- S. *vîsung* or *vissung* (*vîsian*).

2. For he wolde wið þan kinge holden runinge.

Lazam. 14069 and 70.

The Anglo-Saxon substantive is *rûn*, — but the common way of forming verbal substantives being by the termination *ing*, *runinge* was formed.

3. Hengest com to þan kinge
and bad him gistninge.

Laz. 14261 and 62.

4. Up-risinge of alle men
And eche lif J leve.

Credo in Deum 21 and 22.

5. Sipmen here steringe forgeten
For hire (the Siren's) stefninge.

A Bestiary, ed. by Wright and Halliwell 574 and 75

IV. Connected with a verb by a preposition.

1. Birrþ stannden inn till þeowwteunn Crist
Wiþþ fasstinng annd wiþþ beness.

Orm. 11435 and 36.

2. Annd waere þa bikahht and lahht
þurh fandinng off the deofell.

Ibid. 11621 and 22.

3. Acc ure Laferrd Crist ne wass
þurh nan fandinge wundedd.

Ibid. 11804 and 5.

4. zif tveie men goth to wraslinge.

The Owl and th. Night. 793.

5. For al mi song is of longinge
And i-meind sum del mid woninge.

Ibid. v. 867—68.

6. He bi-tagte Josep his ring
And his bege of gold for wurding.
Genesis and Exod; ed. Morris. v. 1250.

It might be the place here to speak about an etymology, mentioned above (pag. 6) as a false one. Generally in grammars of the English language the Gerund of to-day is asserted to be a derivative from the Present Participle. From this asertion, if true, we must infer that the formation of the latter form preceded that of the former. But some pages' reading in writings from the 13th and 14th century will show, that at all events it can be proved, that about this time the present participle is always employed with the termination „inde“, or „ende“, or „and“:

Examples: „mid spere of wundinde word“ (Aner. Riwle, ed. Morton, p. 58). — „mid schekinde word ziuēd speres wunden“ (Ibid. p. 58.) — „urom þe kakelinde ancren“. (Ibid. p. 66.) „oþer a valsinde lune“. (Ibid. p. 72.) „mid made-linde muðe ne mid zeoniinde tuteles“ (Ibid. p. 80). — „of totinde ancren, ne of tollinde lokunges“ (Ibid. p. 76).

In the Proclamation of Henry III. (Anno 1258) the verbal substantives end in ing, the present participles in inde:“ . . . send izretinze to alle his halde and ileawede“ — in þe two and fowertizþe zeare of ure cruninge etc.“ —

Present Part.: . . . beo stedefaest and ilestinde“ — „beo stedefaest and listinde“ —

The Sermons (from the beginning of the 13th century), ed. by Wright in his *Reliquiae Antiquae*.

Verbal substantives: „Hie was fet of weste wunienge“ (p. 128.) „On songes, and on redinges“ (p. 129.) „and wraðe, and onde, and hatinge“ (p. 130.) „ne mid cursinge“ (p. 131.) „that is after clepenge, and askinge, and uncunne; and warienge“ (p. 131.) — Even an old form in „ung“: „and midliggunge þe men drigen bitwenen hem“ (Ibid.).

Participles. „þan þe sa-farinde men seð þe sa-sterre“ (p. 128.) — „þus quedende: Quorum deus etc.“ (p. 129.)

Dan Michel's Ayenbite of Inwyrt, (written in the 14th cent.) ed. by Morris 1866.

Verbal substantives: huanne he him uorzuerþ be (by) longe þenchinge“ (p. 6.) þet habbeþ þe lokingge ous to teche“ (p. 8.) — „as byeþ þe ouerlinges of holy cherche“ (Ibid.) — „þis heste uorbyet þet non ne ssel slaze oþren, uor awrekinge“ (Ibid.) — „oþer be kueade takinges“ (p. 9.) etc.

Participles: „to deme þe dyade and þe libbinde“ (p. 13.) — „and alle þo þet byeþ to ham helpinde“ (p. 30.) — „in a prison uoul and stinkinde“ (32.) — „lenynde þet lenes zeluer uor opren“ (p. 34.) — „þet he dede rine uer berninde and bernston stinkinde oþe þe city of“ (p. 49.) — „and so onconnynde“ (p. 59.) — „vor þer byeþ leazinges helpinde, and leazinges likynde, and leazinges deriynde, and in echen is zenne (p. 62 and 63.)

There are both, the verbal substantive and the present participle in this last quotation.

Richard Rolle de Hampole who lived about 1340, a copy of whose writings we have from 1440, uses the present participle with the termination „and“:

Oyle it es takyne for a lastande saluacyone“ — (Rich. Rolle, ed. by Perry.) — „but sownnande the name of Jhesu“ (Ibid.) — „and my herte meltes in lufe zarenande Jhesu (Ibid.) — „ffor owthire þay ere in trauale, prayand or thynkande, or redande, or othere gude doande, or withtakand ydill mene „etc. — (Ibid.)

The fruit of this little excursion through the mentioned writings is the proof that in fact the present participle, by the influence of the verbal substantive in „ing“, accepted also the ending „ing“, so that in Maundeville's manuscript from the end of the 14th century the present participle is found to end in „ing“ or „yng“. — We found the very reverse of what is generally asserted.

Having shown the frailty of this etymology it would be important for our investigation to make out the time, when the ending „inde“ or „ende“ etc. was changed into „ing“. — The *Ancren Riwe*, written as we mentioned before, in the time from 1200—1250 shows „inde“. Dan Michel's *Ayenbite of Inwyrt*, of which treatises the British Museum possesses the author's manuscript from 1340, has the same termination. *Richard Rolle de Hampole*, the author of „*Pricke of Conscience*“, who flourished about the same time wrote also English prose treatises. of which we have only Robert Thornton's copy from the year 1440. This copy has „and“. — The *Voiage and Travaile* of Sir John Maundeville, written about 1350, has the participle termination „yng“. — A Ser-

mon against Miracle-Play and the writings of Wicleffe (1375—1400) have „ing“. — The Chronicle of Robert of Gloucester who wrote about 1300, and those Lives of Saints which are supposed to be written by him show the verbal substantive and the present participle so rarely used, as if the language had lost the signification of these two forms and did not know how to use them. — From these remarks results that the change of the Present Participle took place in the period from 1375—1425. It is however to be mentioned that the northern dialect accepted the termination „ing“, and „yng“ much later.

As to the verbal substantive, an other change took place. *This form is for the first time found connected with adverbs or objects*, losing by accepting these parts of speech its strict substantive character and *assuming the qualities of the Gerund of to-day*. It is not difficult to detect the cause the influence of which gave the verbal substantive a new shape. But first we will give a little collection of examples to show the new acquisition the language made.

1. . . . and weren zeppe þe ginningge to gidere
in þe bylaue of Jesu Crist.

Dan Michel's Ayenb. p. 14.

2. Auarice is disordene loue, zuo disordene him sseweþ
in þri maneres generalliche, ine wyninge *boldeliche*,
ine ofhealdinge *streitliche*, ine spendinge *scarsliche*,
(Ibid. p. 34.)

We have three adverbs in this phrase: *boldeliche*, *streitliche* and *scarsliche*, the ending of which reminds of the Anglo-Saxon adverbial termination „lice“.

3. For thei seyn, that no man schalle come before no
prynce, but that he be bettre and schalle be more
gladdere in departynge *from his presence* thanne he
was at the comynge before him.

Maundeville, Ed. Halliw. p. 40.

4. . . . and duelled in the desertes in purchasyng
his sustynance.

Ibid. p. 47.

5. And in comynge *down* fro the mount of Olyvete.

Ibid. p. 97.

6. There begynneth the lond of promyssioun and durethe unto Bersabee in lengthe in goynge *toward* the northe into the southe.

Ibid. p. 117.

7. And in azen comynge *fro that castelle*, a 30 myle, is the city of Dan.

Ibid. p. 117.

8. . . . and seeynge ferthermore that al his worldly beyng *here*.—

A treatise of miraculis pleyinge, ed. by Halliwell, p. 45.

9. . . . and so it (miraculis pleyinge) may not given occacioun of turnynge *men* to the bileve but of pervertyng.

Ibid. p. 47.

10. And to the last reson we seyn, that peinture *zif* it be verry withoute mengyng of lesyngis and not to curious to myche fedyng *mennus wittis*.

Ibid. p. 50.

11. There shall be beetyng *togidre* of teth.

Wycliffe, Gospel of Matth.

12. And the fallyng *down* therof was grete.

Ibid.

13. They say that we synne dedly in shavyng *our berdes*.

Maundeville. p. 19.

14. Confession and knowlichynge

In cravinge *thi mercy*

Shulde amenden us.

Piers Ploughman. p. 299.

15. He schal mervelously don to us that is in his power, bothe in delyveryng us fro alle perilis and in *zyvyng us graciously* al that us nedith.

A Sermon against Miracle-plays p. 44.

16. I slowh Sampson in schakyng *the piler*.

Chaucer, Cant. Tales. 2468.

Not before the close of the 13th and the beginning of

the 14th century do we find the verbal substantive to have the same character as the modern Gerund. Till then the substantive in „ung“ or „ing“ was, as we have seen by the examples quoted above, used exactly in the same way as other substantives, that is to say as subject, object, attributively, and adverbially. With the mentioned term, the verbal substantive, altering its sense, gets a wider sphere. By the admission of adverbs and objects it becomes able of replacing in a short way long and inconvenient secondary sentences, giving in doing so the English language one of the principal features which it possesses: its expressive brevity.

In examining the last given examples we find thirteen times the Gerund preceded by the preposition „in“. It is easy to prove, by a more extensive collection of examples, the predilection of the Gerund for this preposition, which, as it were, at first occupied the place before a Gerund, followed by an adverb or object, in order to be imitated by other prepositions. Until the present state of the language, this predilection may be traced. What is the reason for it? — In short, the influence of the French language. The Norman conquest, as it is known, took place 1066. For nearly two centuries both languages flowed side by side, without exerting any important influence upon each other, separated by the national hatred. At last an amalgamation took place, the English vocabulary was enriched by French words, which underwent a change, caused by the German grammar, and the French syntax came in many cases off conqueror over the original construction. French forms influenced also German inflection.

The Gerund of the French language, in most cases connected with an adverb, or an object, caused the English verbal substantive to accept the same quality, changing the French „en“ into the English „in“. Having thus got a more verbal character, the English Gerund was allowed to admit of other prepositions.

As soon as the Gerund was allowed to be followed by adverbs and objects it had reached that point of development it maintains still to-day. We have, therefore, come

to the last part of our task: to examine how the Gerund is used in the modern English language.

One may discriminate between Gerund and Verbal Substantive but only in this way, that we state the Gerunds as that class of verbal substantives which really take adverbs and objects. But necessary this discrimination is not, and many grammarians call all verbal substantives Gerunds, both, such as replace substantives and such as have an obvious verbal meaning.

If I say: That sleep and feeding may prorogue his honour (Shakesp., Ant. and Cleop.), feeding, after the mentioned division would be called a verbal substantive. Or: His purchasing might not be in suspect. (Chaucer), — the form in ing would likewise be called a verbal substantive. The same would be the case in the example: „I am sorry to give breathing to my purpose“. Translated into Anglo-Saxon a substantive in „ung“ would take the place of breathing. „Well wist he by the drouht and of his rain The yielding of his seed and of his grain“. (Chaucer). A-gildung would be the Anglo-Saxon translation of yielding. „It was on his quitting Oxford“. — (Macaulay). Quitting, having an object would, after this division, be called a Gerund.

As those verbal substantives which simply replace other substantives do not offer other objects to a grammatical examination than common substantives do, we shall leave them out, making only those verbal substantives objects of our inquiry which replace a whole sentence by accepting an object or adverb.

In saying that the Gerund replaces sentences it is understood, that these sentences cannot be of another kind than secondary sentences. We will examine the use of the Gerund by an inquiry into the different sorts of secondary sentences. These are:

- I. Substantive sentences,
- II. Adverbial sentences.
- III. Attributive sentences.

The Gerund seplacing

I. Substantive sentences.

A. The Gerund replacing a subjective sentence.

1. My being in Egypt, Caesar,

What was't to you?

No more than my residing here at Rome

Might be to you in Egypt.

Shakesp., Anton. and Cleop.

2. There is no getting rid of him.

Sheridan, Trip to Scarb. 1, 1.

3. Giving alms takes the place of workhouse system.

Dickens.

4. Your being Sir Anthony's son, Captain, would itself be a sufficient accommodation.

Sherid., The Rivals, III, 3.

B. The Gerund used predicatively.

1. It would be throwing away words to prove what all must admit, the general taste and prosperity of nations — etc.

Scott, Minstrel I, 5.

C. The Gerund used objectively.

1. I carefully avoided seeing Schiller, Herder or the Duchess Amalia in the coffin.

Lewes, G. I, 13,

2. I recollect having heard this subject discussed at the tea table. Byron.

3. I am sorry, Mylord, that business prevented my sooner attending to your lordship's kind summons.

Marryat.

4. To prevent the ladies' leaving us, I ordered the table to be moved.

Goldsmith.

In example 3 and 4 is shown, that if the subject of that sentence the Gerund belongs to, is different from that of the Gerund, the latter is expressed by a personal pronoun (*my* sooner attending), or by an Anglo-Saxon genitive (*the ladies'* leaving us). — In German the Gerunds of these 4 examples would be translated by an Infinitive. Sometimes also the English uses the Infinitive instead of the Gerund.

It would be the same to say: I forgot to tell you etc. or: I forgot telling you. — Whether the principal sentence, is to be followed by the Gerund or by the infinitive, depends upon the verb of the principal sentence. Verbs of preventing, forbearing, and intending require the Gerund at all events, while verbs expressing the different states of an action, as well as verbs of purposing and regretting admit of both constructions but prefer also the Gerund. Verbs of observing, suffering, causing, commanding, thinking, and asserting require the Accusative with the Infinitive.

The Gerund replacing

II. Adverbial sentences.

A. Temporal sentences.

Remark. A Gerund preceded by the preposition „in“ expresses a certain duration, a Gerund preceded by „on“ expresses that the action of the principal sentence follows directly.

1. Before following you, I must know your name and purpose.

Scott, Rob. Roy.

2. All is ready against their leaving the dining room.

Taylor, A Reade, Masks, I, 2.

3. After considering him attentively, I recognised in him a diligent getter-up of miscellaneous works.

Irving, The Sketch Book.

4. They felt as a devout catholic at seeing a prelate of the highest dignity sent to the gallows.

Macaul, Warren Hastings.

5. There would he anchor his aspect and die
With looking on his life.

Shakesp., Ant. and Cleop.

6. I have had infinite difficulty in rendering them (these terms) in modern phraseologie.

Irving, the Sketch Book.

7. Dalph felt struck with awe on entering into the presence of this learned man.

Irving, Dalph Heyliger.

8. They were about burying his neighbour.

Warren, Diary I, 17. —

B. The Gerund expressing cause.

a. Real cause.

1. Warwick is hoarse with calling thee to arms.
Shakesp., Henry VI, 2.
2. It was thus from hearing marriage so often recommended that my eldest son fixed his affection upon the daughter of . . . etc.
Goldsmith.
3. The blow thou hast
Shall make thy peace for moving me to rage.
Shakesp., Ant. and Cleop.

b. Motive.

1. Adrian severely censured the princes of Germany for suffering Luther to spread his pernicious tenets.
Roberston.

C. The Gerund replacing conditional sentences.

1. He was permitted to return home on condition of sending his son as a pledge.
Irving, The Sketch Book.
2. We do not commit murder in healing wounds.
Shakesp., Ant. and Cleop.
3. Satan now is wiser than of yore
And tempts by making rich, not making poor.
Pope.

D. The Gerund replacing concessive sentences.

1. In spite of having been altered and simplified at various periods, (it) has still a look of solemn religious pomp.
Irving, the Sketch Book.

E. The Gerund replacing final sentences.

1. a system which was, perhaps, skilfully contrived for the purpose of facilitating and concealing a great revolution.
Macaul., Warren Hast.
2. A covetous fellow, like a jackdaw, steals what he was never made to enjoy, for the sake of hiding it.
Gay, Begg. Op. 2, 1.
3. He began studying this language with the intention of cultivating it as much as possible.

The sentences under B, C, D, and E belong to that category, by which is expressed Causality. To this class belongs a fifth sort: the consecutive sentences which cannot be replaced by a Gerund.

F. the Gerund expresses modality.

As we did not succeed in discovering an example with one of the English standard writers, we venture to give two examples of our own, to exhibit these sort of clauses.

1. Like my drinking water is his drinking wine.
2. Beyond committing a few useful errors, there is no blot on his character.

The Gerund replacing

III. Attributive sentences.

1. This the blest art of turning all to gold.
Young, N. Th. 2, 15.
2. I have not the pleasure of knowing the gentleman who is your tutor.
Chattam, Lett. 3.
3. What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money.
Dickens, Christm. Car.
4. This little delusion was greatly assisted by the circumstance of its being market-day, the thoroughfares about the market-place being filled with carts and horses.
Dickens, M. Chuzzlew. 1, 5.
5. Thus they have taken a singular delight in exhibiting their most private foibles in a laughable point of view.
Irving, the Sketch B.

Finally we have to mention the Gerund, used objectively I. after adjectives, II. after verbs, always connected with a preposition.

I. The Gerund

used objectively after adjectives.

1. The malady which made him incapable of performing his regal function.

Macaulay, Hist. of Engl.

2. Nor had he the talents necessary for obtaining the ear of an assembly.

Mac., Warr. Hast.

3. And that she begged her, not to share her watch, as she was well used to being alone.

Dickens, M. Chuzzlew. 1, 3.

II. The Gerund

after verbs to which the complement is always joined by a preposition.

1. He succeeded in gaining the confidence of the hereditary priests of India.

Macaulay, Warr. Hast.

2. It is certain that he never was charged with having borne a share etc.

Ibid. —

3. Sujah Dowlah was bent on subjugating the Rohillas.

Ibid.

4. He was accused of having always cherished a secret and implacable hostility towards the whites.

Irving, the Sketch Book.

5. There is no species of humour in which the English more excel, than that which consists in caracturing and giving ludicrous appellations, or nicknames.

Irving, the Sketchb.

Vita.

Ich bin geboren am 22. Februar 1841. Mein Geburtsort ist das Dorf Angerstein im Leinethale in der Nachbarschaft Göttingens. Bis zu meinem 14. Lebensjahre genoss ich den Unterricht meines Vaters, der in meinem Heimathsdorfe Lehrer ist. Von Ostern 1855 ab besuchte ich die Realschule I. Ordn. in Göttingen. Michaelis 1857 sah sich mein Vater durch niedriges Gehalt und eine zahlreiche Familie veranlasst, mich von der Schule fortzunehmen. Ich hatte in dem genannten Zeitraume die Classen von Quinta bis Secunda incl. durchgemacht. Jung wie ich war, nahm ich eine Hauslehrerstelle an, die ich zwei Jahr versah, um dann das Königliche Schullehrer-Seminar in Alfeld zwei Jahr zu besuchen. Das Fortarbeiten in all denjenigen Fächern, in welchen die Göttinger Realschule mir eine Anweisung geboten, machte mir nach dem Verlassen des Seminars die Annahme einer Stelle am Privatinstitute des Herrn Kaune in Lesum möglich, welche Stellung auszufüllen ein fleissiges Arbeiten erforderte. Drei Jahr später wurde ich Erzieher im Hause des Herrn Förster in Bremen, dessen Söhne den Unterricht der Handelsschule genossen. Als Seminarist war ich verpflichtet, eine mir anderthalb Jahr später angetragene Schullehrerstelle in Reyershausen, einem kleinen Dorfe in Göttingens Nähe, anzunehmen. Neben wenig Gehalt bot mir die Stelle viel Zeit, meine Lieblingsstudien, neuere Sprachen und Geschichte, fortzusetzen. Gegen Weihnacht 1867 erhielt ich eine Anstellung an der reformierten Schule in Göttingen. Mein bis dahin ununterbrochenes Arbeiten hatte mich in den Stand gesetzt, die Universität mit Erfolg benutzen zu können. Ich liess mich

Ostern 1868 immatriculieren und versuchte, zwei Herren zu dienen: der Schule und dem Studium. Im Sommer 1871 verliess ich Schule und Universität, um das Englische jenseits des Kanals zu cultivieren. Im Hause des Rev. Adams, der seine Pensionäre zur Universität vorbereitete, fand ich als Lehrer einen für meine Zwecke sehr passenden Platz. Ein Jahr später kehrte ich nach Göttingen zurück, bereitete mich aufs Examen pro facult. doc. vor und liess mir im Januar 1873 die Themata zu meinen Examensarbeiten geben, die ich Ostern einlieferte. Ich liess mich bewegen, schon damals die Stelle eines Lehrers der neueren Sprachen an der höheren Bürgerschule in Northeim anzunehmen. Im Laufe des Sommers machte ich in Göttingen mein mündliches Examen pro fac. doc., dem im März 1874 ein Examen zur Erlangung des Doctorgrades an der philosophischen Facultät der Universität zu Leipzig folgte.

F. G. A. Rusteberg.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 003 134 324 0

OCT 30 1974

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 003 134 324 0

